

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION  
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION  
(Pre-Publication of Notice Statement)

Amend Subsection 300(a)(1)(G)  
Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)  
Re: Upland Game Birds- Wild Turkeys

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: October 14, 2008
- II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
- (a) Notice Hearing: Date: October 3, 2008  
Location: Santa Rosa, California
- (b) Discussion: Date: November 14, 2008  
Location: Huntington Beach, California
- (d) Adoption Hearing: Date: December 12, 2008  
Location: Sacramento, California
- III. Description of Regulatory Action:
- (a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:
1. Establishing Hunting Seasons
- Existing regulations specify the conditions under which upland game species in California may be hunted. A principal mandate and objective of the Department is to provide for public use and enjoyment of wildlife including hunting. Within the framework of existing regulations, the Commission may modify season dates, bag limits, and other regulations to both conserve wildlife species while providing for their public use.
- The proposed regulatory change modifies the regulations to add a 2-day Spring Junior Hunt (16 years of age and younger) period the weekend prior to the normal Spring turkey season. The proposed change would add the Saturday and Sunday preceding the opening day as a 2-day hunt period for juniors. The purpose is to provide additional recreational

opportunity to young hunters for the abundant turkey populations in the State.

(b) Authority and Reference:

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 203 and 355, Fish and Game Code.  
Reference: Sections 200, 202, 203, 203.1, 215, 220, 355 and 356, Fish and Game Code.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None

(d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

2004 Environmental Document: Upland Game Bird Hunting

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

The proposal described herein was discussed at several prior Fish and Game Commission meetings during 2008. It was a public recommendation to add the proposed hunt period.

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

No other alternatives were identified.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The no change alternative would keep the Spring turkey hunting season in California the same and would not provide for the additional recreational opportunity for junior hunters in the State.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed, or would be as effective as and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action.

This proposed action provides an additional hunt period for junior turkey hunters. Given the high turkey population, and the statewide area over which they are distributed, this proposal is economically neutral to business.

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businessmen to Compete with Businesses in Other States.

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. Considering the small number of permits issued over the entire state, this proposal is economically neutral to business.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California.

None.

- (c) Cost Impacts on Private Persons.

The cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with this proposed action could be considered significant.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State.

None.

- (e) Other Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies.

None.

- (f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts.

None.

- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4.

None.

- (h) Effect on Housing Costs.

None.

## **INFORMATIVE DIGEST (Policy Statement Overview)**

Existing regulations specify the conditions under which upland game species in California may be hunted. A principal mandate and objective of the Department is to provide for public use and enjoyment of wildlife including hunting. Within the framework of existing regulations, the Commission may modify season dates, bag limits, and other regulations to both conserve wildlife species while providing for their public use.

The proposed regulatory change modifies the regulations to add a 2-day Spring Junior Hunt (16 years of age and younger) period the weekend prior to the normal Spring turkey season. In Spring 2009, the turkey season begins the last Saturday in March and extends for 37 consecutive days. The proposed change would add the Saturday and Sunday preceding the opening day as a 2-day hunt period for juniors.

The purpose is to provide additional recreational opportunity to young hunters for the abundant turkey populations in the State.